**Federal Direct Stafford Loan Limits:**

*Please Note: PLUS Loans can be borrowed to fill the gap between the amount of Subsidized/Unsubsidized loans and your Cost of Attendance.*

*The limits listed below do not include the PLUS (Parents Loan for Undergraduate Students and the Grad PLUS (for graduate students) which at this time do not have a cap on annual or aggregate borrowing. However, borrowers must pass a credit test in order to receive an approval to borrow a PLUS loan.*

*Students and their parents can fully fund their cost of attendance with a combination of the Subsidized, Unsubsidizied and PLUS loan program. (PLUS requires a credit check)*

The maximum amount you can borrow each year in Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans depends on your grade level and on whether you are a dependent student or an independent student. The following table shows the maximum amount of money you may borrow each academic year in Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans as well as the total or aggregate amount you may borrow:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Direct Stafford Loan Limits (Subsidized and Unsubsidized)** | | | |
|  | **Undergraduate students** | | **Graduate students** |
| **Dependent1** | **Independent2** |
| **1st-year** | **$5,500 ($3,500)3** | **$9,500 ($3,500)** | **$20,500 ($8,5004) for each year** |
| **2nd-year** | **$6,500 ($4,500)** | **$10,500 ($4,500)** |
| **3rd- and 4th-year** | **$7,500 ($5,500)** | **$12,500 ($5,500)** |
| **Aggregate** | **$31,000 ($23,000)** | **$57,500 ($23,000)** | **$138,5005 ($65,500)** |

1Except those whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS loan.  
2These limits also apply to dependent students whose parents are unable to borrow a PLUS loan.  
3The numbers in parentheses represent the maximum amount that may be subsidized.  
4Graduate and professional students are not eligible to receive Direct Subsidized Loans for loan periods beginning on or after July 1, 2012.  
5The aggregate amounts for graduate students include loans for undergraduate study.

The actual loan amount you are eligible to receive for an academic year is determined by your school and may be less than the maximum annual amounts shown in the chart above. The aggregate limits include both Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans and any subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford Loans received through the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program.

With a Direct PLUS Loan, a graduate/professional student or the parent of a dependent student can borrow up to the cost of the student's attendance minus other financial aid the student receives.